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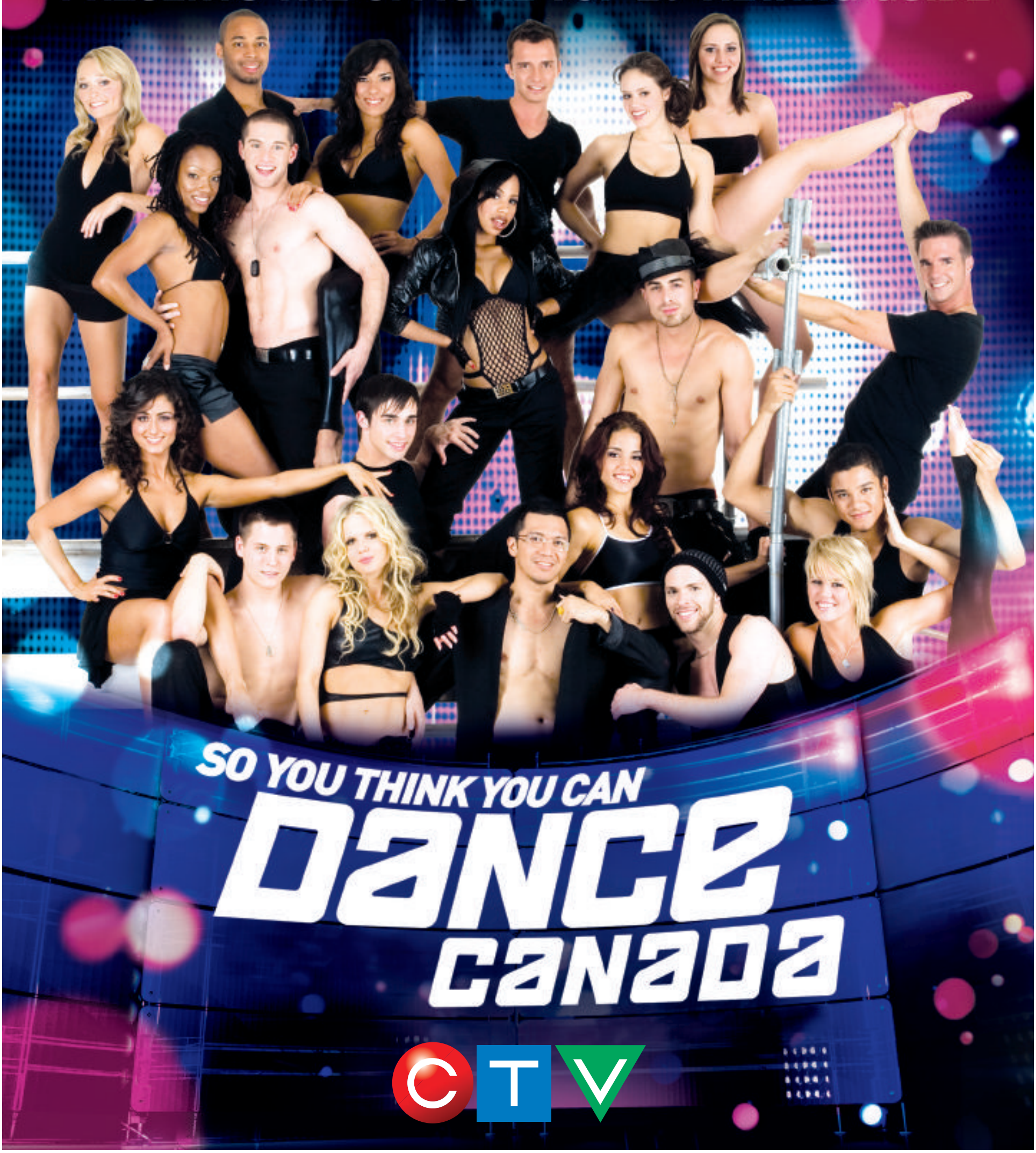

LEAH MILLER
HOST

From host of *MuchOnDemand* to the new host of ***So You Think You Can Dance Canada***, Miller has come a long way from the audition that landed her a job with Canada's flagship music station, MuchMusic. As a three-time host of the *MuchMusic Video Awards* and co-host of *MuchOnDemand*, Miller has interviewed some of the hottest stars and musical acts around, including Coldplay, Halle Berry, Kanye West, Rhianna and Matthew McConaughey. A music and dance aficionado, Miller tapped into the dance world at a young age. Miller danced competitively until the age of 16, an experience that gives her first-hand knowledge of the hard work and dedication it takes to become a competitive dancer.

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Celebrity pg 23

Ramsay targets Royal food line

Sailboat runs aground on reservoir

RESCUE Two sailors and their boat were towed back to the Glenmore Reservoir docks after a rocky ride yesterday afternoon.

The Calgary Fire Department's Aquatic Rescue team responded to a distress call at around 4:30 p.m., and once arriving on scene, found a boat with the two male crew members aboard, and a hull stuck in a shoal of rocks 10 to 15 feet from shore.

Divers helped remove the vessel from the shallow area and the Glenmore boat patrol towed the vessel to safety.

No one was injured.

METRO CALGARY

Election 2008 pg 6

• Heard on the street

Travel pg 18

Take a trip back in time

World pg 8

Obama, McCain debate taxes

ShareYourViews
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Platform

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Conservative leader and Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper pauses during a television interview in Toronto yesterday. Harper released his party platform to Canadians six days before the federal election Oct. 14. For more coverage see pg 6.

Vital signs report a mixed bag

NEIL MACKINNON
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Calgary is certainly no honours student.

While the city flunked in its efforts on homelessness as numbers continually rise and received an A for Internet use, well above the national average, most areas graded by the 700 people who took part in the 2008 Vital Signs report issued yesterday by the Calgary Foundation received a C.

"We know civic and provincial leaders will use this as a barometer and hopefully begin to look for change," said the Foundation's Kerry Longpre, noting the Calgary report coincided with 15 others across the country. "We're doing very well in some areas, but Calgarians still feel it's not enough."

Calgary Transit hauled the most passengers per capita daily on any North American city and was also home to the most small-businesses in the country, but leads the nation in domestic assaults.

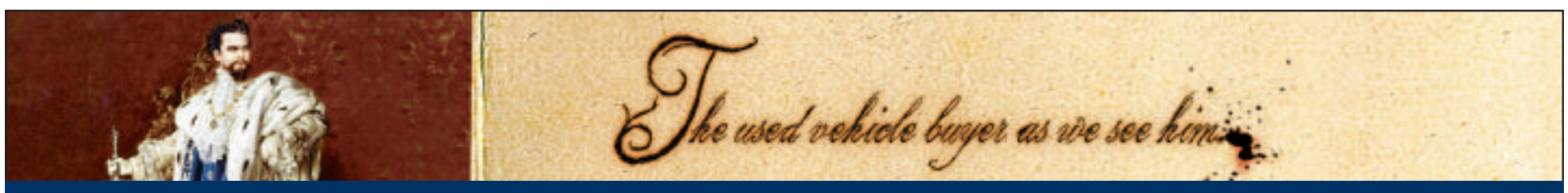
Housing received the lowest grade of the dozen subsections in the report with a firm D, a factor dragged down by an 18.2 per cent increase in homelessness since 2006.

"A good number of Calgary's homeless have jobs, which is truly disheartening that they work and still can't afford to live here," Longpre said.

Calgary Homeless Foundation president and CEO Tim Richter said he's encouraged by the failing grade Calgarians gave the city's homelessness issue.

"I'm not surprised at all, homelessness has increased 900 per cent since we started counting," he said. "We've had the sense our concerns are shared broadly in the community and this grade confirms that."

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 4



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Bank note images used and altered with permission of the © Bank of Canada.

Zoocheck founder launches book
Zoocheck Canada founder, Rob Laidlaw, will be launching his book: Wild Animals in Captivity, a non-fiction book for kids that looks critically at zoos, Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Calgary Public Library Central Branch at 616 Macleod Tr. SE. METRO CALGARY

Local

Hollywood comes to Calgary

A glamorous "Night in Hollywood" marks the 10th anniversary of the Giddy-Up Gala Oct. 25, presented by the Calgary Stampede Queens' Alumni, the Calgary Stampede Foundation and Maxim Power Corp in support of children with special needs in Calgary and surrounding area. For tickets or information visit giddyupgala.com or call 403-261-0417. METRO CALGARY

Tina Varughese and Helen Leong

Chance meeting reunites neighbours

FLUKE Being reunited after five years was more than two Calgary women bargained for, while flying to a photo shoot for a national magazine.

When 38-year-old Tina Varughese and 46-year-old Helen Leong were two of 50 women chosen for a Dove photo shoot in Shine magazine, they thought they wouldn't know anyone else.

"It was actually funny because when we saw one another we were like "I know you from somewhere" and it was quite a surprise to make a long story short," Leong said.

The women were neighbours five years ago and hadn't seen one another since.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

Alberta middle of the line

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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Even though Alberta wait times have dropped, and are slightly above the national average, a research group says more work can be done.

The Fraser Institute released numbers yesterday showing that the wait time in Alberta has decreased one week from 19.5 in 2007 to 18.5 in 2008.

"This is an improvement for wait times, but it is nothing to be applauding or proud of because it is still a long wait," Fraser Institute spokesperson Nadeem Esmail said.

Esmail said the national average wait time is 17.3, down from 18.3 in 2007.

"Alberta is higher than the national average, but still in the middle of the pack in terms of wait times," he added.

Robert Siddall, 59, told Metro he had to wait three and a half years for a shoulder surgery that he only got just three weeks ago.

"Part of the problem was they lost my file halfway through. The wait times, well, I guess shoulder surgery just isn't that high on the priority list," he said.

The Calgary Health Region couldn't be reached for comment.

METRO CALGARY FILE PHOTO

Waiting times in Alberta from diagnosis to treatment are slightly higher than the national average, but have decreased by one week over the past year.

Weeks of waiting

Canada's shortest hospital wait times (weeks)
- Ontario - 13.3 weeks per person
- British Columbia – 17 weeks per person

Longest wait times (weeks)
- Saskatchewan - 28.8 weeks per person
- Nova Scotia - 27.6 weeks per person

Firefighters blown around by storm

HIGH WINDS A massive windstorm shortly after lunch yesterday left the Calgary Fire Department scurrying, with a tenfold increase in calls in a period of 80 minutes.

From 12:20 to 1:40 p.m. the department had 68 calls — it typically receives six or seven calls in that timeframe under normal conditions.

Downed power lines, downed trees, scattered debris, snapped LRT arms, car collisions and other events were reported throughout the city during the freak burst of high winds. METRO CALGARY

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Find out why housing gets dismal marks in the Vital Signs survey at metronews.ca/local and watch Jack Layton and Stéphane Dion take aim at the Tory election platform at metronews.ca/canada

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MP Anders declines participation in all-candidates forum
Controversial Calgary West Conservative candidate and incumbent MP Rob Anders has declined to participate in an all-candidates forum for the riding Friday after his campaign team reviewed the questions that would be posed. METRO CALGARY

Environment grades low in report

City's pesticide use, poor recycling and composting rates behind weak results

NEIL MACKINNON
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It's not the worst, but there's certainly a lot of room for improvement.

Housing barely edged out the environment at the bottom rung of Calgary's Vital Signs, a report released yesterday by the Calgary Foundation.

While a sweeping curbside recycling program will be rolled out in January and work is progressing on limiting the cosmetic use of pesticides, it's going to take at least a decade to boost the overall C-minus grade handed to the city's environment by the report, said Clean Calgary's Ashley Lubyk.

"It's going to take some visioning," Lubyk said. "We can't just slap a quick fix on this. What we need is some strong leadership and a willingness on the part of the public to take a little bit of a risk."

The city's air quality, the best in Canada, and Bow River water quality received decent grades, but other measures of environmental friendliness, including pesticide use and the recycling rate, barely passed.

The grades

- Air quality: B
- Bow River water quality: C
- Pesticide use: D
- Recycling rate: D
- Kitchen- and yard-waste composting rate: D

Ald. Druh Farrell said the city is leading the way in terms of new technology, water works, green energy and conservation efforts, but much more needs to be done regarding the way the city is being designed.

"We have to be realistic about our role in the world, and too often we're enticed into complacency because it's too easy to continue to do things the same old way," Farrell said.

"Things are changing, they're changing fast, and we have to prepare or let them hit us in the side of the face."

Video to aid responses to SIDS cases

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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To better assist those coping with the death of their child from sudden infant death syndrome, a city organization has teamed up with Protective Services to help first-line responders deal sensitively with grieving parents.

SIDS Society Calgary and Calgary Protective Services have partnered up to create a video that teaches responders how to deal with SIDS cases.

"I can't imagine how terrible it is for parents, but I know if I (respond to a case) now, the video will be playing in the back of my mind," said paramedic Adam Loria.

Chinh Chu lost her son Jake three years ago to SIDS, and said one of the things she remembers is that she was allowed time with her son before they took him away.

"They gave me the opportunity to hold him, and they didn't rush me while I was with him," she said.

ROBIN KUNISKI/METRO CALGARY

Junior fire chief Fatema Bhagat, 11, and fire Chief Bruce Burrell hang out in front of Crossing Park School during a fire drill as a part of the school's Fire Prevention Week activities.

Junior fire chief suits up for school drill

NEIL MACKINNON
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It was nothing that Fatema Bhagat hadn't done before, but she was excited nonetheless.

It was just over a month ago that Bhagat, an 11-year-old Grade 6 student at Crossing Park School in Calgary's northeast, first donned a fireman's helmet during the Calgary Fire Department's Campus Calgary/Open Minds Fire School, and yesterday, she pulled one on again.

While she has no intentions of pursuing a firefighting career — she'd rather be a lawyer — Bhagat was still promoted to junior fire chief, an honour that had her smiling.

"I was shocked," she said. "You have your own responsibility and stuff. It's pretty cool."

Bhagat, who was awarded her own helmet and duty coat, worked with nearly a dozen firefighters to run a fire drill at her school before riding a fire truck to a nearby hall for a home-cooked meal.

Calgary fire Chief Bruce Burrell said it's crucial to have youth involved in the department's activities.

"If we can influence the youth, it has a tendency to stick," said Burrell, noting this is the first year a national junior chief program has been installed. "We're dealing with them at a fairly impressionable age. They learn the program, take the information home and they also have influence on their parents and the community."

Man sought after attempted assault

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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Police are searching for a man after an attempted sexual assault in the city's south around 7 p.m. Monday night.

A 25-year-old woman was walking through South Glenmore Park when she noticed a man following. When she slowed down to let him pass, he waited a short time before grabbing her from behind.

The woman was able to scare him off by screaming and fighting back. He fled towards Glenmore Reservoir.

Police are looking for a black male, 16- to 20-years-old, six feet to six foot two and 160 to 180 pounds with a slim build.

News in brief

INTERNET Calgary Economic Development and Critical Mass have partnered to launch the website Calgarypedia — an online initiative intended "to connect and engage Calgarians" by having an online location where citizens can help build a global information resource about the city.

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Hells Angel gets 11 years
An Ontario court sentenced a Hells Angels biker to 11 years in prison yesterday, after he was found guilty under what prosecutors call the "boss law" for directing others to commit crimes for the benefit of a criminal organization. A prosecutor said he believes it is the first sentence ever levied under the law. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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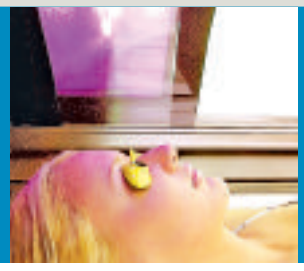

Tanning ban for minors?

Ontario Health Minister David Caplan said yesterday that province will consider banning the use of tanning beds by minors. The announcement came after a report by the Canadian Cancer Society that artificial tanning facilities in Toronto are not following Health Canada's voluntary safety guidelines.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

New test can't be cheated: Psychologists

SCIENCE University of Toronto psychologists say they've developed a personality test that will reveal your true colours even if you lie to it.

Researchers say the rapid-fire computer quiz will allow companies to confidently hire the most productive employees based on traits such as emotional stability.

A study on the new test was published in Journal of Research in Personality.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto **$9M lawsuit**

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

George Lochner, seen here with lawyer Clayton Ruby and pictures of his injuries on the door, is suing Toronto police for $9 million in damages. Lochner, who suffers from cerebral palsy, claims officers used excessive force when they barged into his bedroom Aug. 11 and shocked him with a Taser.

News in brief

ONTARIO A simple apology from a doctor, a neighbour, a business or a hospital that has made a serious mistake can often keep people out of court or help them settle lawsuits more quickly. That's the thinking behind the Apologies Act proposed yesterday by Ontario Attorney General Chris Bentley, who said the law would mean apologies could no longer be used as admissions of guilt in civil court cases.

SENTENCED A Hells Angels associate has been sentenced to six years in prison after police made what is described as Canada's largest seizure of date rape drug GHB from his Toronto garage. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Suspect charged with second sex assault

JEFF CUMMINGS
Metro Canada

In the wake of a child abduction on the weekend and the shocking revelation of a similar attack on Friday, Edmonton's top cop said yesterday police were aware of a convicted sexual offender who lived in an apartment building with children.

No notification to the public was ever made about the offender's release because a risk assessment done by police wasn't conducted after the offender's release, said Police Chief Mike Boyd.

And an assessment wasn't done because city cops never received a package of information from Corrections Service Canada, Boyd added.

"Corrections Service Canada will launch an investigation into this incident and we'll fully cooperate," said Boyd.

Jeff Campbell, a CSC spokesman, says "it appears that full notification may not have been made" with police.

Danial Todd Gratton, 44, was released from parole back in March after completing a voluntary treatment for sexual offenders, said Det. Doug MacLeod with the Edmonton police high-risk offenders' section.

Gratton — already charged with abducting and sexually assaulting a seven-year-old girl in the city's north end Sunday — is now accused of assaulting another girl Friday night.

"Corrections Service Canada will launch an investigation into this incident and we'll fully cooperate."
Mike Boyd, Edmonton Police Chief

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Numbers down in advance voting

According to preliminary figures from Elections Canada, 1,459,253 electors voted at the advance polls last Friday, Saturday and Monday. This is a decrease from the 1,561,039 electors who voted in advance in the 2006 election. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Election 2008

News in brief

DIRTY THIRTIES NDP Leader Jack Layton has raised the spectre of the Great Depression to emphasize the serious economic situation facing Canada. "Mr. Harper's response to the crisis in the banking system is to say that everything is fine, nothing needs to change, and there are no problems," Layton said yesterday in Vancouver. "R.B. Bennett couldn't have said it better himself in 1930." Bennett was Canada's Conservative prime minister from 1930-35, during the worst of the so-called Dirty Thirties.

COPYCAT In the latest twist in the plagiarism wars, the Conservatives say Stéphane Dion lifted parts of a speech he gave at the UN conference on climate change in Montreal in 2005. In an address on the Arctic, Dion quoted passages from a report on the effects of global warming conducted under the auspices of the Arctic Council.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PM pushes 'realistic plan'

Tories unveil platform amidst economic turmoil

The Conservative election platform is a "realistic plan of action" for Canada's economy, Stephen Harper says.

Harper yesterday released the platform, a summary of most of the party's pledges announced so far in the election campaign, before giving a speech to the Canadian Club.

Harper called the platform modest and affordable, in contrast to the plans of his opponents, which he said are "written for an economic fantasy land; a place where money grows on trees, debts don't have to be paid down and taxes are good for the economy."

"A Conservative government will not be raising taxes. We will not impose a carbon tax. We will not cancel planned tax reductions for business. We will keep our spending within our means. It is that simple." Stephen Harper

Harper's plan carries a four-year cumulative price tag of $8.67 billion, and breaks down into about $6.5 billion in tax reduction measures, and about $2.1 billion in new spending over four years.

It predicts a bigger fiscal cushion than most economists right now see unfolding. The Conservatives project some $8 billion in surplus over four years, after the new spending. The plan does not factor in the $4.2 billion in revenue the federal government raked in from the telecommunications auction of wireless spectrum.

New items in the platform include more help for the troubled manufacturing sector. The Conservatives would provide $200 million over four years for the aerospace industry and $200 million over four years for the automotive industry, both in repayable assistance. Harper also pledged another $345 million in reductions in tariffs on imported machinery and equipment to help support capital investment by ailing companies.

"A Conservative government will not be raising taxes," Harper said. "We will not impose a carbon tax. We will not cancel planned tax reductions for business. We will keep our spending within our means. It is that simple." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Liberals

Economy No. 1 on Dion's list

MESSAGE Stéphane Dion brings his energized campaign to Toronto today on a mission to persuade voters that a Liberal government is the best custodian of a troubled economy.

The Liberal leader will deliver that message in a noon-hour address today to a joint meeting of the Empire and Canadian clubs, a day after Prime Minister Stephen Harper spoke to the same forum.

"Since the beginning of this election, I have talked about jobs, your jobs. Stephen Harper failed at his job," Dion said in Vancouver yesterday morning.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

6 days remain until the 2008 Canadian federal election

Heard on the Street: Has the election campaign made you change your mind on which party you will vote for?

From Metro newsrooms across Canada

Erin Rosko
age 23, Calgary

A: I still have to make up my mind and I haven't ruled out the spoiling of the ballot.

Kevin Thome
age 21, Calgary

A: The debate influenced my vote more than the campaign itself, which I find generally slanderous and silly so I don't pay too much attention to it.

Carmen Gustafson
age 27, Calgary

A: It has influenced my vote, mostly the leaders' debate and the inclusion of Elizabeth May.

Elaine Siltala
age 51, Edmonton

A: I would say that after the debate, I am heavily in favour of voting for (Stephen) Harper. I am pleased with what he is doing for Canada.

Marie-André Bédard
age 37, Montreal

A: No. Politicians saying, "He's no good, I'm better," don't change my mind at all. I make my mind up with what parties have done in the past, on leaders' opinions and from the news.

CJ Symons
age 21, Ottawa

A: This campaign has shown me that regardless of what face has power, the parliamentary system will only work for those who own wealth and to participate in it would just legitimize this circus, so I'm not going to vote.

Rachelle MacDonald
age 21, Fall River, N.S.

A: Yes. I didn't really know who I was going to vote for until I watched the debate. When I watched the debate, that's where I got my idea.

Paulina Gostomski
age 20, Vancouver

A: The campaigning hasn't influenced me. I've always voted NDP. I think they care more about working class people than the Liberals or Conservatives.

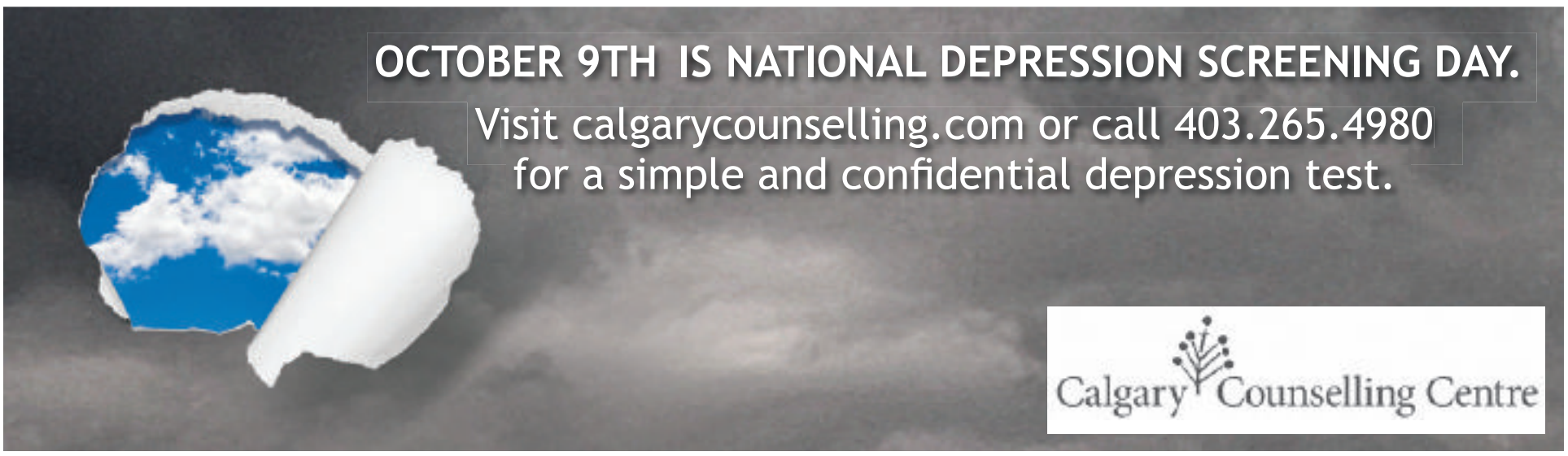
metro life panel

Metro Life Panel

Answers from the Metro Life Panel, based on 507 respondents.

Yes: 125 – 24.7%

No: 382 – 75.3%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Naked swimmer evades police in Tokyo palace moat

A bald, naked man who said he was a British tourist went swimming in the moat of Japan's Imperial Palace yesterday, climbing the palace wall, throwing rocks and splashing water at police before being taken into custody. **REUTERS**

World

Nature inspires new products

The Alpine edelweiss flower may hold clues to making better sunscreen, while oyster shells could give hints about storing greenhouse gases in an emerging industrial revolution that mimics nature. "A more fascinating horizon is opening up for the green economy," Achim Steiner, head of the UN Environment Program, said yesterday in giving findings of a UNEP "biomimicry" project identifying 100 new ideas from nature. Reuters

SARS was China plot, says Taiwan

HEALTH Taiwan legislators wearing surgical masks and displaying skull-and-crossbones banners took over parliament's floor yesterday after the island's security chief accused China of starting the global SARS epidemic six years ago as part of a biological warfare campaign.

Taiwan National Security Bureau Director-General Tsai Chao-ming told a legislative committee on Monday that sources in China suspected biological warfare, but that conclusive evidence had not surfaced.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome originated in southern China in 2002 and went on to kill hundreds of people around the world — including about 350 in China. **REUTERS**

News in brief

COURT A B.C. man charged with abusing a nine-year-old boy in Thailand made his first court appearance yesterday in Bangkok. Christopher Paul Neil, 32, was arrested in 2007 after a manhunt to find the person behind hundreds of photos of a man abusing boys that appeared on the Internet, CBC News Online reports.

PROTEST Thailand's military deployed troops on the streets of Bangkok yesterday to keep order after a day of battles between police and anti-government protesters in which two people died and more than 380 were injured. Protesters have been waging a four-month campaign to unseat the government. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

McCain, Obama duel over taxes

U.S. presidential nominees find some common ground on economy

Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama battled over taxes and the best way to help struggling American workers last night during a sometimes tense presidential debate that highlighted a wide gap in their economic approaches.

With Americans reeling under what Obama called the worst crisis since the Great Depression, the rivals in the Nov. 4 presidential election differed frequently and showed occasional flashes of the rancor that marked their recent rhetoric on the campaign trail.

"Americans are angry, they're upset and they're a little fearful," McCain said in the second of three presidential debates, held in Nashville. "We don't have trust and confidence in our institutions."

The 72-year-old Arizona senator proposed a program that would buy mortgages from homeowners facing financial problems and replace those mortgages with new, fixed-rate mortgages.

Obama said McCain and Republicans had supported the deregulation of the financial industry that led to the crisis. He said middle-class workers, not just Wall Street, needed a rescue package that would include tax cuts.

Democratic senator leads polls

- Obama has solidified his national lead in polls ahead of the Nov. 4 election and gained an edge in crucial battleground states in recent weeks as the Wall Street crisis focused attention on the economy, an area where polls show voters prefer the Democratic Illinois senator's leadership.
- Two quick polls taken immediately after the debate, by CBS News and CNN, both judged Obama the winner.

"We are in the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, and a lot of you, I think, are worried about your jobs, your pensions, your retirement accounts," he said.

The debate broke little new ground and featured familiar themes for both candidates. McCain portrayed Obama as an eager supporter of higher taxes who was unwilling to buck his own party, but Obama said McCain's policies would help the wealthy and strand workers at the bottom of the economic ladder.

"Nailing down Senator Obama's various tax proposals is like nailing Jello to the wall," McCain said.

Obama, 47, responded with a crack about McCain''s campaign bus.

"I think the Straight Talk Express lost a wheel on that one," he said, explaining his plan would only tax those making more than $250,000 a year and most small businesses would not be affected. **REUTERS**

Canadians aid effort to empower African women

ALI ZAFAR
for Metro Canada

METRO WORLD
Exclusive

Ritha Abemba walked over dead bodies and witnessed people getting shot at the age of seven as she and her family escaped the conflict-ridden Democratic Republic of Congo for the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya.

"When I think about how we fled out, I can't avoid crying with so much bitterness," Abemba said.

But this past September, the 20-year-old enrolled into her first semester at the University of Winnipeg after being sponsored by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) — a non-governmental organization that links Canadian universities and colleges with refugees worldwide.

Abemba is the 1000th student the WUSC has brought over to study in Canada.

"Educating women is the key to development in Africa," said Jacob Mapemba, the WUSC's Malawi country director.

The NGO has introduced gender-sensitive curriculum in sub-Saharan African classrooms, educating girls as a way of speeding up development in the region.

Mapemba says the gender-sensitive curriculum in primary and secondary schools entails empowering young girls by illustrating them in a positive light.

"In the old curriculum, boys would be seen as being successful, being powerful and girls would always be seen as lagging behind boys," Mapemba said.

ALI ZAFAR/FOR METRO CANADA

Girls in African nations like Malawi can benefit from a gender-sensitive curriculum — something that experts say can help speed up development across the continent.

The WUSC has been around for six decades and currently works with 70 Canadian campuses and in 17 countries worldwide, including Malawi, a south-eastern African nation with a population of 13 million.

Like many other countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Malawi's economy runs on agriculture and employs 75 per cent women. Mapemba says for these agriculture-based economies to become more productive, educating women is key so they're familiar with the latest technologies used in growing and harvesting crops.

"If women were well educated here, African nations wouldn't remain at the bottom of the economic ladder," said Joyce Phekani, of the Malawi-based Centre for Alternatives for Victimized Women and Children.

Ali Zafar is a Canadian journalist currently based in Malawi, where he works the Nation newspaper through Journalists For Human Rights.

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'World's ultimate buskers' make it big for charity
The Salvation Army has teamed up with record label Universal to raise one million pounds for the charity. Universal will make an undisclosed donation and will release an album recorded by the Army's famous uniformed brass band on Nov. 24. **REUTERS**

Business

DOLLAR 0.67¢ C$ $90.31 US US$ $1.1073

OIL $90.06 US $2.25

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

In brief

GAS Gas prices are on their way down, averaging $1.14 per litre and falling below $1 in Ottawa. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

OIL Enbridge panned worries about Stephen Harper's pledge to halt bitumen exports, or about finding financers. **REUTERS**

Global bailouts continue

The U.S. Federal Reserve created a new commercial paper facility that would buy short-term, highly rated corporate debt, in a last-resort program outside the $700 billion US rescue plan.

Russia negotiated an emergency bailout for Iceland and unveiled an aid package for its own banks, Australia slashed interest rates by 1 point to 6 per cent, and today, Britain will announce a rescue package likely to include funds for U.K. banks. **REUTERS**

In Toronto...

The S&P/TSX composite index dropped nearly 4 per cent yesterday, ending down 400.88 points, or 3.9 per cent, at 9,829.55. It dropped for the fifth straight day to close below 10,000 for the first time since July 2005.

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South Korea Currency crisis

REUTERS/JO YONG-HAK

Women walk past a bank's advertisement which illustrates its mortgage rates for customers, in Seoul yesterday. South Korea's president played down talk of a currency crisis similar to one 10 years ago, even as the won slumped to a 7-year low.

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Brennan walks away from national team, blames coach

Toronto FC Captain Jim Brennan, a stalwart on the men's national soccer team since 1999, walked away from the team yesterday blaming his frustration with head coach Dale Mitchell and the Canadian Soccer Association for walking away. Brennan said he would consider returning to the national side if Mitchell was replaced. **SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Sports

Yankees' Rivera has surgery

New York Yankees star closer Mariano Rivera, left, underwent surgery on his sore right shoulder yesterday and is expected to resume throwing in three months, a month before spring training is set to begin. The 38-year-old pitched through discomfort throughout the 2008 campaign but was still dominant, converting 39-of-40 save opportunities and compiling a 6-5 record with a 1.40 earned run average. METRO NEWS SERVICES

NHL doing just fine

Hockey naysayers need to be quiet and read the facts

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

Let's put a lid on all the gloom and doom about the NHL, shall we?

Frankly, it's become tiring to read and hear irresponsible suggestions that the league, outside Canada, is in trouble and may be dying. It's annoying that know-nothings such as CFLer Milt Stegall choose to publicly put down hockey as an illegitimate sport.

It's stupid, because here are the facts:

The NHL is healthy and it is thriving. It is 4 per cent ahead of last year in season-ticket renewals and new season-ticket sales. It is on track to pass the 2.1-million mark in attendance in 2008-09. And it is likely to set its fifth consecutive season of record attendance.

So enough of this nonsense, OK?

• Contract negotiations between Marian Gaborik and the Minnesota Wild have hit an impasse and the club has begun to entertain trade offers for the 26-year-old superstar.

Among those expressing interest: The Vancouver Canucks, Ottawa Senators, Toronto Maple Leafs, Montreal Canadiens, Pittsburgh Penguins, New York Rangers and Los Angeles Kings.

Gaborik has one year left on his Wild deal but Minnesota general manager Doug Risebrough has made it clear that, because of potential distractions, he will trade the high-scoring forward soon if he can't re-sign him.

• The Philadelphia Phillies and Boston Red Sox are favoured to meet in the World Series this month, but I like both underdogs to win their league championship series, which begin this week.

World Series odds

• World Series odds from Canadian handicapper Randall The Handle: Boston Red Sox +185; Tampa Bay Rays +295; Philadelphia Phillies +325; Los Angeles Dodgers +345.

Manny Ramirez, for all his alleged faults, has inspired the Los Angeles Dodgers to reach heights they couldn't have dreamed of reaching without him. They'll beat Philly in five.

And the Tampa Bay Rays were 10-8 against Boston in the regular season. There was a reason for that. They're the superior squad.

Hey, I picked the Rays to advance to the World Series after I saw them in Florida way back in spring training. I won't change my mind now. Rays in seven.

• But about those cowbells fans in Tampa Bay are ringing in their seats:

"Dumbest thing I've ever seen," Chicago White Sox pitcher Bobby Jenks said. "Annoying. Minor league."

• I can't remember when two Canadian position players have been as important to playoff teams as Boston's Jason Bay and the Dodgers' Russell Martin are now … Hearing Buck Martinez analyze the playoffs this week reminded me of just how terrific he was in the Blue Jays' broadcast booth. Wasn't a bad manager, either. What a raw deal he got from Jays GM J.P. Ricciardi … And what's this we're hearing about Ricciardi being approached about a contract buyout by the Jays' ownership?

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Montreal caught off-guard as Formula One drives away

Politicians and business people are scrambling to save the Canadian Grand Prix, a celebrated tradition in Canada for more than 40 years, which has been dropped unceremoniously from the Formula One calendar for 2009.

In what appeared to come as a surprise even to the Montreal organizers of the huge event, the International Automobile Federation (FIA), the governing body of auto racing, yesterday issued a revised schedule for next year and Montreal was off the list.

No reason was given. But the schedule shows that the Turkish Grand Prix has been moved from August to June, replacing the spot previously reserved for Montreal.

The race has been Montreal's biggest tourist draw of the year, with more than 300,000 spectators producing as much as $100 million in revenue for the region. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

RON BULL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Formula One announced its dates for the 2008 season and Montreal's Canadian Grand Prix was left out of their tour.

Sports in brief

NHL The Los Angeles Kings and centre Patrick O'Sullivan agreed on a three-year contract yesterday.

NFL New Orleans Saints cornerback Tracy Porter had risen to the top of the depth chart in his rookie season only to see it all come to an abrupt end yesterday as the team placed him on injured reserve.

NBA Washington Wizards forward Antawn Jamison sprained his right knee in the first quarter of yesterday's preseason opener. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

SCOREBOARD

MLB

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
BEST OF SEVEN
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Tampa Bay vs. Boston
FRIDAY'S GAME
Boston at Tampa Bay, 6:37
SATURDAY'S GAME
Boston at Tampa Bay, 6:07
MONDAY, OCT. 13
Tampa Bay at Boston, 2:37
TUESDAY, OCT. 14
Tampa Bay at Boston, 6:07
THURSDAY, OCT. 16
x-Tampa Bay at Boston, 6:07
SATURDAY, OCT. 18
x-Boston at Tampa Bay, 2:37
SUNDAY, OCT. 19
x-Boston at Tampa Bay, 6:07
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Philadelphia vs. L.A. Dodgers
TOMORROW'S GAME
L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 6:15
FRIDAY'S GAME
L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 2:35
SUNDAY'S GAME
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 6:22
MONDAY, OCT. 13
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 6:22
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15
x-Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 6:22
FRIDAY, OCT. 17
x-L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 6:22
SATURDAY, OCT. 18
x-L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, 6:22
x — only played if necessary.

CFL

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
x-CALGARY	**9**	**5**	**0**	**18**
x-B.C.	9	5	0	18
x-Saskatchewan	9	5	0	18
Edmonton	8	6	0	16

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
y-Montreal	9	5	0	18
Winnipeg	5	9	0	10
Toronto	4	10	0	8
Hamilton	3	11	0	6

(x - clinched playoff spot)
(y - clinched division title)

WEEK 16
FRIDAY'S GAMES
Toronto at Winnipeg, 7:30
Edmonton at B.C., 10:30
MONDAY'S GAMES
Hamilton at Montreal, 1
Saskatchewan at **CALGARY**, 4:30

NFL

AAMERICAN CONFERENCE
EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Buffalo	4	1	0	.800
New England	3	1	0	.750
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500
Miami	2	2	0	.500

SOUTH DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Tennessee	5	0	0	1.000
Indianapolis	2	2	0	.500
Jacksonville	2	3	0	.400
Houston	0	4	0	.000

NORTH DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Pittsburgh	4	1	0	.800
Baltimore	2	2	0	.500
Cleveland	1	3	0	.250
Cincinnati	0	5	0	.000

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Denver	4	1	0	.800
San Diego	2	3	0	.400
Oakland	1	3	0	.250
Kansas City	1	4	0	.200

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
N.Y. Giants	4	0	0	1.000
Washington	4	1	0	.800
Dallas	4	1	0	.800
Philadelphia	2	3	0	.400

SOUTH DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Carolina	4	1	0	.800
Tampa Bay	3	2	0	.600
Atlanta	3	2	0	.600
New Orleans	2	3	0	.400

NORTH DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Chicago	3	2	0	.600
Green Bay	2	3	0	.400
Minnesota	2	3	0	.400
Detroit	0	4	0	.000

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PCT
Arizona	3	2	0	.600
San Francisco	2	3	0	.400
Seattle	1	3	0	.250
St. Louis	0	4	0	.000

WEEK 6
SUNDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Atlanta, 11
Miami at Houston, 11
Detroit at Minnesota, 11
Oakland at New Orleans, 11
St. Louis at Washington, 11
Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets, 11
Baltimore at Indianapolis, 11
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 11
Jacksonville at Denver, 2:05
Green Bay at Seattle, 2:15
Dallas at Arizona, 2:15
Philadelphia at San Francisco, 2:15
New England at San Diego, 6:15
MONDAY'S GAME
N.Y. Giants at Cleveland, 6:30

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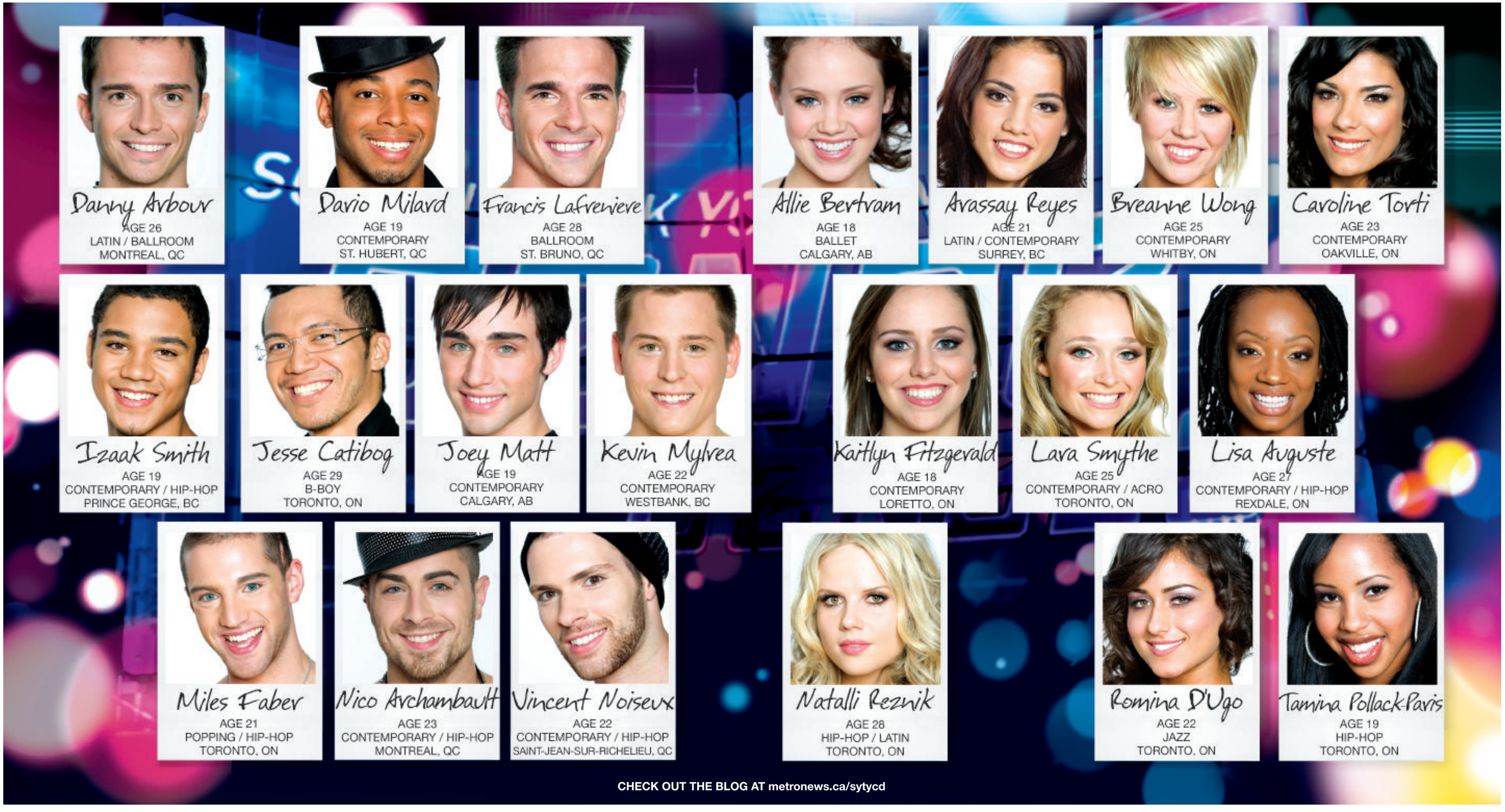
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THE ROAD TO THE TOP 20

Selected from more than 2,500 aspiring dancers, the ***So You Think You Can Dance Canada*** Top 20 dancers are exceptionally dedicated, talented and passionate. Now it's up to you to decide who will be crowned Canada's Favourite Dancer.

The audition tour kicked off in Vancouver and the dancers showcased their contemporary flavour. From the Pacific to the Atlantic, the tour headed east but not even the steel grey skies or bone-chilling winds could dampen Halifax dancers' enthusiasm.

The audition tour travelled to Calgary next where the judges were blown away by the strong technique of prairie dancers. After Calgary, the auditions stopped in Montreal. With a well-established hip hop and contemporary communities, the dancers were in top form in La Belle Province!

The audition tour wrapped up in Toronto where thousands of dancers filled city sidewalks. With an eclectic turn out – from street dancers to studio dancers – Torontonians wowed the judges.

The top dancers from each city met at Finals Week – a fiercely competitive process where the dancers had to learn choreography, perform their own solos and stay up all night developing group routines.

After an incredibly intense week of dancing, the judges chose their Top 20 to kick off the inaugural season of ***So You Think You Can Dance Canada!*** Over the next few weeks, the Top 20 Dancers will compete for your votes.

Only you can decide who will become Canada's favourite dancer. Get ready to vote, Canada!

2008 BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 8	Top 20	Thursday, November 6	Results
Thursday, October 9	Results	Wednesday, November 12	Top 10
Wednesday, October 15	Top 18	Thursday, November 13	Results
Thursday, October 16	Results	Wednesday, November 19	Top 8
Wednesday, October 22	Top 16	Thursday, November 20	Results
Thursday, October 23	Results	Wednesday, November 26	Top 6
Wednesday, October 29	Top 14	Thursday, November 27	Results
Thursday, October 30	Results	Wednesday, December 3	Top 4
Wednesday, November 5	Top 12	Thursday, December 4	Finale

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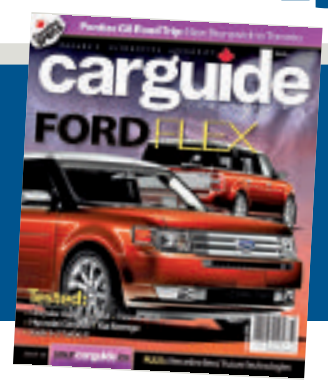

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Ford Flex packs style punch

JOE KNYCHA
for Metro Canada

With a long list of innovations and a style unique to its class, Ford's full-sized 2009 Flex crossover is bold and refreshing.

With a long list of innovations and style unique to its class, Ford's full-sized 2009 Flex crossover is bold and refreshing. At first glance it appears to be incongruous with rising gasoline prices. But gas-sipping microcars aren't ideal for everyone — especially those who regularly carry up to a half dozen passengers and their luggage or sports equipment.

Among the current crop of SUVs, pickup trucks and even crossover-utility vehicles, the Flex is an out-of-the-box front-runner.

Offered in Canada in two trim levels, it starts at $34,999 for the well-equipped front wheel-drive SEL, and runs to $42,999 for the all wheel-drive Limited.

Power is delivered via Ford's smooth 3.5-litre V6 Duratec engine linked to an equally smooth, six-speed automatic transmission that it shares with the Taurus X. It makes 262 hp at 6,250 rpm and 248 lb-ft of torque at 4,500 revs.

Ford projects fuel economy numbers of 12.6 L/100 km (city) and 8.4 L/100 km (hwy) for the front-wheel-drive Flex and 13.5 (city) and 9.5 (hwy) with AWD. Flex will be available next year with the turbocharged ecoBoost engine.

Inside, the Flex seats six (or seven, with the no-cost optional second row 60/40 folding bench seat) with ample space and comfort and upscale features and details. Thoughtful features include coat-and-grocery bag hooks and storage compartments throughout.

Class-leading technologies include SYNC, voice-activated navigation with reverse camera system, premium Sony sound system and 'surprise-and-delight' features like Ford's EasyFuel capless refueling nozzle and exclusive, compressor-driven refrigerated console.

Flex is built on the Taurus X platform, stretched five inches for greater middle-seat space. An all-new, Flex-specific rear suspension is designed for hauling and load bearing — it can comfortably pull up to 1,900 kg.

Driving dynamics inspire confidence in corners, with a steering feel that is linear and intuitive. Pushing the vehicle to its limit in corners results in mild understeer with ample early warning so that it retains its composure.

But it's the Flex's unique, stand-alone styling that will first get peoples' attention. Peter Horbury, executive director of design for the Americas, called the styling a "radical departure" for Ford.

"At first we were uncomfortable with the way Flex could polarize, but its ability to compel an opinion, good or bad, was fascinating," he says. "It inspired us forward with courage to create a breakthrough design."

Strong shoulders and prominent wheel arches plant the car firmly on the road and set it over the standard 18-inch or available 19-in polished aluminum wheels. Brakes are four-wheel discs with ABS.

Darkened 'privacy glass' and black pillar cladding add intrigue. The roof, available in silver or white, heightens the effect.

Despite the darkened glass greenhouse, the interior is bright and airy with first rate fit and finish throughout. An available 'Vista' roof lightens and brightens the interior even more, and allows for individual brightness adjustment over the second- and third-row passenger positions. The forward panel opens to let in fresh air.

The SEL's standard equipment list is lengthy, with highlights including auto dual beam headlamps, capless fuelling, power-remote folding heated side mirrors, remote keyless entry, power windows, doors and locks, two-speed rear windshield wiper, multifunction centre console, A/C, full instrumentation, message centre with trip computer, four, 12-volt powerpoints, three rows of seats and safety/security features including electronic traction- and stability control front and side impact air bags with rollover sensor seat belt pretensioners and tire pressure monitoring.

The top line Limited adds chromed mirrors with puddle lamps, LED taillights, 19-inch all-season polished aluminum wheels and tires, a 10-speaker AM/FM stereo with six-disc in-dash changer and MP3 and Sirius Satellite Radio, hands-free Sync media system, power rear liftgate, leather interior and steering wheel integrated audio and speed controls.

2009 Ford Flex

Type: Full-size crossover-utility vehicle, FWD
Price: $34,999
Engine: 3.5L DOHC V6
HP: 262 @ 6,250

Highlights

- Seats seven
- Easy entry and exit for passengers
- Quiet ride

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Green like a Peapod

Chrysler firm introduces cutting-edge electric car

Clean and green transportation gets a new look and feel as Global Electric Motorcars (GEM) introduces the next generation of clean, gas-free and emission-free, battery electric vehicles.

Owned by Chrysler, the vehicle's innovative, groundbreaking design with its striking pod-like shape and sleek lines reflects the environmentally friendly nature that has been the hallmark of GEM since its founding 10 years ago.

The user-friendly mood of the vehicle, named the GEM Peapod, is enhanced with the newly designed center console that will offer iPod integration as well as hands free operation of the customer's iPhone.

Other innovations include ergonomic, supportive, mesh seating which enables air circulation for comfort and use of eco-friendly recycled and recyclable materials.

Chrysler's GEM is launching a new model called the Peapod, a plug-in, zero emissions electric vehicle.

GEM will also get a new name, GreenEcoMobility, signifying the company's goal to redefine environmentally-friendly vehicles.

In addition to the 2009 GEM Peapod neighbourhood electric vehicle, GEM has plans to market a new light-duty, battery electric commercial truck and a larger city electric vehicle, with more range and performance.

These vehicles are scheduled for production within the next year.

Traffic keeps flowing with Audi Travolution

Frustrating, fuel-sapping stops at red traffic lights could soon be the exception rather than the rule thanks to a new initiative being championed by Audi aimed at streamlining urban traffic flow and reducing CO2 emissions.

The experimental Travolution system, developed with Audi support by traffic management experts in the brand's German home town of Ingolstadt, will not only improve synchronization and phasing of traffic light networks to reduce stopping times, but could also dramatically reduce the number of actual stops needed by creating a communications link between cars and the traffic light network.

Communications modules built into each traffic light are able to send messages to cars in the vicinity, alerting them to the time remaining until their next green phase.

The car's onboard system is then able to calculate the speed which the driver must maintain in order to pass through the light during this green phase, and displays this via the Multi Media Interface display.

Audi's new traffic management system enables communication between cars and traffic lights.

A network of 46 of the intelligent traffic lights has been installed in the centre of Ingolstadt, the software to which they are all linked optimizing their phasing to bring stopping times down to a minimum, reducing fuel consumption and pollution in the process.

Of the 46 light gantries, three have been upgraded to enable communication with the specially modified A5 and A6 Avant models provided by Audi as part of the 1.2-million Euro pilot project.

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*MSRP of $18,235/$23,310 for City Jetta / Jetta 2.5 with manual transmission. $1,335 freight and PDI included. **Limited time lease offer on approved credit available through Volkswagen Finance. 48-month lease offer applies to new and in stock 2008 City Jetta / Jetta 2.5 with 5-speed manual transmission, base model with monthly payment of $226/$307 based on 1.5% lease APR with $0 down payment for a total obligation of $10,848/$14,736. First monthly payment free up to a maximum of $250/$400 for City Jetta / Jetta 2.5 (taxes included – no cash value) applied to the lease of new and in stock 2008 models. $0 security deposit offered only on new and in stock 2008 Volkswagen models leased through Volkswagen Finance. $0.12/km over 80,000 kilometres charged at lease end. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, any dealer charges, options, and applicable taxes extra. MSRP for 2008 City Jetta as shown is $20,503 with Siata accessory wheels. MSRP of Jetta 2.5 sedan as shown with accessories is $32,310. Dealer may sell for less. At participating Volkswagen dealerships only. Offer valid until October 31, 2008 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Supplies limited. See dealer for details. †Transport Canada fuel consumption figures are estimates only. Your fuel consumption may vary. ††$750 rebate for recent college or university graduates. Certain conditions apply. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo and "Jetta" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2008 Volkswagen Canada.

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Honeymoon help

Couples who book their wedding with Fairmont can now opt for the Platinum Honeymoon program. It includes the services of a Platinum Concierge, who can help select venues, plan romantic dinners and book expeditions or tee and spa times; *fairmont.com/weddings*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Couture house

Casa Casuarina, the opulent Miami Beach palazzo formerly owned by Gianni Versace, right, may be most famous for the designer's tragic murder on its front steps. But the fabulous interior and grounds also deserve to be known. Peter Loftin, the current owner, plans to open Casa Casuarina to the public, saying Versace's home was simply "too magical a place not to be shared." Visits will set you back a princely $50 US; *casacasuarina.com*. METRO WORLD NEWS

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Take a stroll to the 18th century

Filming locations for The Duchess include lavish U.K. homes and gardens

EMMA E. FORREST
for Metro World News

Keira Knightley's new movie, The Duchess, is the perfect way to spirit yourself back to the 18th century.

The movie is based on the biography of Georgiana Spencer, a beautiful aristocrat who marries the wealthy but cold duke of Devonshire. While her marriage is empty, her social schedule is full — she's a society darling, fashion icon, political campaigner, adulterer, compulsive gambler and England's first celebrity.

But just as dramatic as Georgiana's story are the lavish costumes, towering wigs and the sumptuous 18th century sets.

Keira Knightley walks down the hall of Greenwich Naval College in London.

Director Saul Dibb was committed to making the set as authentic as possible, so the movie was filmed in real 18th century homes and gardens.

Cast and crew travelled the length of England to find the most suitable locations in which to film, picking a dining room from one house and a ballroom from another in order to create the perfect look Dibb wanted. Filming was challenging, not only because of the attention to detail but because of the restrictions involved in filming in these protected, historic homes.

Viewers get the chance to see inside some of the most opulent historic houses in England throughout the movie, but can also go for a snoop in person — all of these stunning places are open to the public. Georgiana's country home, Chatsworth House, was built between 1686 and 1707 and is still the Devonshires' home today.

Set in extensive grounds, in the stunning rolling green hills of the Derbyshire countryside, this vast manor and the magnificent gardens are open to the public, so you can sweep through the long corridors like Knightley does in the film.

Unfortunately, the duke and duchess's London residence, Devonshire House, no longer exists, so Dibb had to create it by using the best of some of the most majestic stately homes in England.

One of London's loveliest art galleries, the Neoclassical Somerset House was used to represent the exterior of Devonshire House.

Come here to see the building's grand Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court that Georgiana enters by horse-drawn carriage when she is first taken home by the Duke and greeted by legions of servants. The building is home to the Courtald Gallery, which has one of the most important collections of art in England — including works by Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Cezanne and Turner. (somersethouse.org.uk)

Another house used to portray Devonshire House is Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire. The gardens and five of the rooms in this Neoclassical mansion, owned by the National Trust, were used during filming, as well as Althorp, the Spencer family home, and one of Georgiana's rented villas in Bath.

Two of Kedleston's staffers were used as extras on the five-week shoot here, and four property managers had to follow the crew around the house to ensure the interiors weren't damaged.

Until March 2009, Kedleston Hall will be showcasing some of Knightley's costumes for The Duchess and behind-the-scenes photos of the shoot here, as well as parts of a replica floor that was made to protect the Marble Hall floor during a ballroom scene (nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-kedlestonhall).

Chatsworth House exhibit

• Chatsworth House is holding an exhibition titled Georgiana Duchess until Oct. 31, where you'll be able to view some of Georgiana's private letters, gambling bills and, also, some of the extravagant gowns worn by Knightley and the cast in the film (*chatsworth.org*).

Chatsworth House, which was built between 1686 and 1707 and is still the Devonshire family's home today. Run by the current Duke and Duchess, the house is seen in the movie The Duchess.

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Life and death festival
Heading to the Mayan Riviera? The Xcaret Life and Death Traditions Festival will be taking place from Oct. 30 to Nov. 2. The event celebrates Day of the Dead and All Saint's Day traditions from across Mexico; see *xcaret.com.mx*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sunning in a doomed paradise

The Maldives could be underwater by the close of this century

The Travel Junkie
Julia Dimon

juliadimon.com

Every year, thousands of tourists come to the Maldives looking for fun, sun and a pina colada paradise. A tiny chain of islands in the Indian Ocean, just off the coast of Sri Lanka, the Maldives are rich with high-end resorts that promise beach-side relaxation far from the realities of urban living.

But many tourists might not know is that the Maldives may be disappearing.

In this palm-tree fringed haven, with over 200 inhabited islands, all is not well. At one metre above sea level, these islands are at risk of vanishing altogether. It's highest natural point is 2.3 metres, making the Maldives one of the lowest countries in the world. With global warming and rising sea levels, some expect the Maldives to disappear almost totally by the end of this century.

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA
A resort sits atop stilts in the Maldives, an atoll nation which is comprised of 1,192 islets.

"Under threat of extinction beneath the waves, it's not surprising that the Maldives was one of the first countries to sign up for Kyoto Protocol."

Touring the postcard-perfect islands, it's hard to imagine that, one day, this place may be obliterated from the map. I found myself at Soneva Gilli, an extravagant resort with villas that costs a whopping $1,800 US a night. Here, everything seems normal. Drawing honeymooners, scuba divers and infidels on adulterous week-long retreats, this place is one of the most luxurious pads I've ever stayed in. But beyond the impeccable service and friendly staff, resorts like these are under threat of washing away.

As the ice caps melt, many are looking to islands like the Maldives as an indicator of what's to come for the rest of the world. Maldivian president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was reported as saying to the British media: "Whatever our fate tomorrow will be your fate the day after."

Under threat of extinction beneath the waves, it's not surprising that the Maldives was one of the first countries to sign up for Kyoto Protocol.

BBC reports that the country has implemented reforestation programs, is working to protect its natural coral barrier and is teaching environmental science in schools. A trip to Male, the capital city, shows huge cement breakwaters that protect the shores; but despite all efforts, the fate of the country's 380,000 citizens remains uncertain. It has many people asking — Will the Maldives become a modern Atlantis?

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.

Eco-tourism tips

- Limit air-conditioning use
- Conserve water and opt out of having your towels and bedsheets washed daily
- Drink water that's desalinated at your resort, instead of imported bottled water
- Don't buy tourist souvenirs made from animals or plants
- Reduce energy usage by turning off the lights and TV when not in your hotel room
- Stay at hotels with strong environmental policies
- Look for sustainable tour operators

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Fey signs book deal
Comedienne Tina Fey has signed a book deal with Little, Brown Book Group. There is no official word on how much she will be pocketing for her work – pitched as more humour than memoir. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

Wonder woman
Actress Anne Hathaway is lined up to join Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter for director Tim Burton's adaptation of Alice In Wonderland. Hathaway is slated for the role of the White Queen. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Short list for Giller Prize unveiled

BOOKS The prestigious Scotiabank Giller Prize announced its short list of finalists yesterday, after reviewing 95 books submitted from across the country.

The top prize of $50,000 goes to the author of the best Canadian novel or short-story collection published in English. Each of the four other finalists will receive $5,000.

The finalists are:

- Joseph Boyden for his novel Through Black Spruce, published by Viking Canada.
- Anthony De Sa for his collection of short stories Barnacle Love, published by Doubleday Canada.
- Marina Endicott for her novel Good to a Fault, published by Freehand Books/Broadview Press.
- Rawi Hage for his novel Cockroach, published by House of Anansi Press.
- Mary Swan for her novel The Boys in the Trees, published by Henry Holt/HB Fenn.

The winner will be announced Nov. 11. **REUTERS**

Fantasy hits and misses

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

For years, children's fantasy was considered box office poison. Movies like Jim Henson's Dark Crystal and brilliant animator Ralph Bakshi's 1978 adaptation of The Lord Of The Rings failed in theaters despite the constant support of fantasy novels amongst an enthusiastic Elfish-speaking fan base.

That all changed in 2001 with the unparalleled commercial success of Peter Jackson's Lord Of The Rings and the first Harry Potter film. Now the genre dominates Hollywood and audiences are constantly being treated to films like The Chronicles Of Narnia, The Golden Compass, or this week's City Of Ember.

The studios now view the genre as a cash cow, but sadly it has not been as consistent as they hoped. There have been few monster hits outside of the Potter and Rings films, which has lead many to question what makes these movies work?

Bill Murray plays Mayor Cole in the film adaptation of the book City of Ember. It opens on Friday.

The answer is quite simple. The studios have predominantly treated these properties as large-scale ATM machines and put very little creative effort into developing them.

The Golden Compass — the film that killed New Line Studios — was handed off to American Pie helmer Chris Weitz, who struggled with the material along with his lost actors.

Similarly, the dwindling success of the Narnia franchise can be associated with the personality-less cinematic transcribing of Andrew Adamson. For any book to work on screen the original work has to be altered dramatically to fit the new medium. Sadly, this rarely happens.

Peter Jackson took huge liberties with his Lord Of The Rings adaptations and the films worked beautifully as a result. Likewise, much of the success of the Harry Potter franchise has to be attributed to brilliant screenwriter Steve Kloves' (The Fabulous Baker Boys) uncanny ability to condense and alter J.K. Rowling's texts for the screen.

This week's City Of Ember boasts a script from underrated writer Caroline Thompson (Edward Scissorhands) and direction from Gil Kenan who was responsible for the brilliant kiddie horror picture Monster House.

The team knows how to tell cinematic stories for children and should do a fine job translating French author Jeanne Duprau's apocalyptic kid-lit for the big screen.

Unfortunately, their movie comes after a string of fantasy flops and will be unceremoniously dumped into theatres. Hopefully audiences will discover it, because this is a tricky genre to get right and all successful attempts deserve recognition.

Guitar Hero IV, Bond among new games

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

The garden furniture showroom in Toronto's design district has been transformed into a dim, moody nightclub to showcase the holiday offerings for Sony's PS3 and PSP game boxes, but it's a bit of a stag night, with scarcely more than three or four females in sight.

The raised platforms on either end of the room where Rock Band 2 and Guitar Hero IV are being demoed have been colonized by enthusiastic young men fervently miming to Bon Jovi and Smashing Pumpkins tunes, while the white couches that fill the rest of the space are packed with members of the gaming press trying out new titles like Sony's Resistance 2, Ubisoft's Prince Of Persia and Electronic Arts' Mirrors Edge.

"You can play the game without shooting a single person," says Aaron Krause of EA, one of the biggest names in gaming and a third-party game developer for the PlayStation platform. He's showing off Mirrors Edge, patiently explaining terms like "first person shooter" for me, and enthusiastically describing the game, which is based on the urban sport of parkour, or "free running." In a room filled with the sounds of gunfire and agonized screams, it's unusual to find a game where you're actually rewarded for not blowing holes in folks.

You can fill the shoes of actor Daniel Craig's James Bond character in 007: Quantum Of Solace for Activision.

Garrett Young, a producer for Treyarch, was part of the team that developed 007: Quantum Of Solace for Activision, and he's eagerly taking me through a level of the game where Daniel Craig's Bond is clambering over the top of a high-speed train on its way to Montenegro to foil some smugglers and get his hands on an invite to a high-stakes poker game. "We wanted to make a great game first then wrap it in the world of Bond," he tells me. The team worked on the game as the new Bond film was being made, working from a shooting script, photos and four visits to the set, and they're expecting it to be a big seller this Christmas.

"We wanted to make a great game first then wrap it in the world of Bond."
Garrett Young, a producer for 007: Quantum Of Solace

My gaming skills are sorely out of place at the event, however; sitting alone on a couch in front of a game called Little Big Planet, I manage to press a combination of buttons that turns the screen black and makes the controller go dead. I quietly put it down and slip away quietly.

Big plans for Kate Nash

Kate Nash plans to release an album next summer — if she can tour first. The singer says the only way to force herself to complete writing new songs is to play some live shows in order to give herself a deadline. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Cera an unlikely sex symbol

In a little more than a year, Michael Cera has built a movie career playing geeky high school heroes who somehow get the girls.

So it must feel good, being a sexy leading man in Hollywood — especially when you're really kind of geeky.

"It feels like acting," deadpans Cera, and somehow his answer seems appropriate.

Cera, 20, stars in a major Hollywood release Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist, a teen romance that recently landed in theatres across North America, and far more than in his Superbad and Juno, Cera is expected to lure fans.

His rise has been rapid, and made all the more remarkable because Cera is not the archetype of a movie hero. There are no six-pack abs, no chiseled jaw or bold decision-making. Simply put, he is no Brad Pitt; not even Tobey Maguire.

There is only his wire-thin body and slumping frame. His hair is tousled and he rarely seems to smile.

GETTY IMAGES

Michael Cera is the current standard-bearer of geekdom.

But Cera does like music and can play guitar, and one thing about girls — no matter what decade they grow up in — they love guys who play guitar. Cera's character Nick, is not much different than Cera.

"He is kind of guileless. He doesn't seem like a jerk," Kat Dennings (Norah) said in a joint interview with Cera.

"He doesn't have lesions or active sores or something," Cera said.

"Not on his fingers," Dennings joked. "I don't know, girls can tell when someone's acting nice — like, acting like a decent human being — when they're are not. He's not acting like that. He's very nice. I think girls can identify with a real nice person."

Certainly, good and geeky guys have gotten the girls in the past. In fact, they are littered throughout Hollywood history. Ten years ago, it was Jason Biggs in American Pie.

But Cera is the current standard-bearer of geekdom after his turn in hit comedy ($170 million US global box office) Superbad, portraying a gawky teenager who goes out on a party night with a friend to score booze and a babe.

In Oscar-nominated Juno, Cera won fans as an awkward high-schooler who impregnates his friend — named Juno (Ellen Page) — then stands by as she makes quirky and often funny decisions dealing with her impending delivery.

This time around in Nick and Norah, Cera is a guitarist in a gay rock band whose girlfriend dumps him. And after an odd set of circumstances, he ends up pulling an all-nighter with his girlfriend's rival (Norah) as they search for an underground band playing a secret gig somewhere in Manhattan.

REUTERS

Backstory

- Actor Michael Cera is Canadian. He was born in Brampton, Ont. **IMDB.COM**

In brief

MARRIAGE Beyoncé Knowles has broken her silence on her marriage, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The singer has previously refused to discuss her relationship with rapper Jay-Z, whom she married in secret in April. "What Jay and I have is real," Beyoncé told Essence magazine. "It's not about the interviews or getting the right photo op. It's real."

PEOPLE Jennifer Lopez says she suffered "a nervous breakdown" six years ago, the Daily Mail reports. The singer/actress blamed overwork and stress for her condition. She refused medication, instead resting until she felt better, she said. Lopez told website The Daily Beast she "froze" while filming the movie Enough.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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DRAKE OUTPERFORM

Bennett gives birth to girl

Former American Idol contestant Paris Bennett welcomed a baby girl, named Egypt Bennett, at 3:36 p.m. Monday, her rep said. The baby's father chooses to be out of the public eye. **PEOPLE.COM**

Some TV shows die, others are born

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

GOING AWAY, COMING SOON: The new TV season is technically barely two weeks old and we're already counting the dead and expecting babies. Actress Minnie Driver is using her MySpace page to introduce her new baby to the world — she's been a lot less open about the identity of the father — which means she'll have plenty to occupy her now that FX has cancelled The Riches, her actually-quite-good show with comedian Eddie Izzard. The show's strike-truncated second season ended last April, and the woefully-undersung series has been on critical status since then.

TBS has ordered a third season of My Boys, a show I was certain hadn't survived its first, and The Mentalist was given an order of six new episodes by CBS, filling out its first season to a full 22 shows, and almost ensuring that the show — one of the few titles even resembling a hit on the so-called Tiffany network — will be back again next year.

HBO has given a green light to season six of Entourage, apparently pleased with the current season's surge in ratings, Jeremy Piven's third Emmy in a row, and the critical consensus that the show's shaped up after what was considered to be a flabby fourth season. It also needs to be pointed out that, besides the odd miniseries, HBO doesn't have a lot else going on right now.

FX has renewed Sons Of Anarchy, a series about an outlaw biker gang that I had never heard of until now, but which pulled in a cumulative audience of 5.4 million total viewers per episode since its debut early last month, totaled up from multiple weekly broadcasts, according to a TV Week story. "I think the underlying themes of family and the common man's fight against oppressive corporate greed has grabbed people's attention," said Kurt Sutter, husband of Sons Of Anarchy star Katey Sagal and an executive producer of the show. Now there's an idea — solve the current fiscal meltdown by putting the economy in the hands of the Hell's Angels; those Hollywood people — always ready with a creative solution.

FX has cancelled The Riches, starring Minnie Driver and Eddie Izzard.

HBO's Manhunt, a miniseries based on the manhunt for Abraham Lincoln's assassin announced last month, will apparently be joined by The Booths, a Showtime series executive produced by Kevin Bacon, about the "dysfunctional relationship" between Lincoln's killer and his brother, according to a Variety story.

If this trend has wings, look for quality cable series featuring the backstories of Lee Harvey Oswald, Sirhan Sirhan, John Hinckley Jr., Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, Arthur Bremer, Charles Guiteau and Leon Czolgosz. At least one will be a comedy, two will star Harvey Keitel, and one will be a musical that will unexpectedly include a hit song that will feature in future montage sequences taking a nostalgic look back at the events of the last half of the first decade of the 21st century, much the way Disco Inferno is the soundtrack for looks back at the Carter era. Don't ask me how I know — I just do.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Actresses have the floor in new comedy pilot

TELEVISION Meet The Washingtoniennes.

Rachael Taylor, Amanda Walsh and quarterlife star Bitsie Tulloch have landed the female leads in HBO's comedy pilot from Sex and the City star Sarah Jessica Parker.

Based on the semi-autobiographical book by Jessica Cutler about the sexploits of a low-level female congressional staffer with powerful men on Capitol Hill, Washingtonienne revolves around the professional and personal lives of three smart, sophisticated 28-year-old girls working on the Hill.

At the center is Jackie (Taylor), a recent transplant from New York who has decided to pursue a career as a speechwriter but first must work her way up from the intern desk. Her mentor in the ways of Washington is her old college friend April (Tulloch), who has been on the Hill since graduation. And finally there's Laura (Walsh), a small-town girl whose workaholic ways often come at the expense of a social life and who is constantly defending her Republican views to her liberal friends.

Mamma Mia still strong in Europe

BOX OFFICE Forget the fanboys and their comic-book movies, it's time to hail a long-neglected fan base — the mature women who kept Mamma Mia! on top in the international market for the fifth week in a row. One woman in Germany is reported to have seen the ABBA-inspired musical romance more than 70 times.

Thanks to a top-of-the-market bow in Italy ($2.6 million) and strong holdovers, Mamma Mia! pulled in $13.6 million over the weekend from 44 territories, lifting its foreign gross to $377 million. After 13 weeks in Britain, it ranks at No. 4 and has reached a market gross of $123.2 million. **REUTERS**

In brief

TELEVISION HBO has renewed its Hollywood-hipster comedy Entourage, a month after the Emmy-winning series began its fifth season. Production on the sixth season will begin in early 2009, with launch slated for the summer. The current season got off to a good start with co-star Jeremy Piven last month winning his third consecutive Emmy, for playing a slimy talent agent. **REUTERS**

CA	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
10/8/08 primetime	267	351	- ACCESS	Help TV		America's Next Top Model (N)		Mad Men		Private Practice (N)		Help TV
	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Canada The top 20. (N)				CSI: NY "Turbulence" (N)		News (N)
	-	-	4 BROAD	(4) Broadcast News News.		Broadcast News News.						
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Pushing Daisies (N)		Private Practice (N)		Sexy Money
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	Crime Stories (N)		Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		(10:01) NCIS (N)		News Hour
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Hell's Kitchen		Secret Life of American Teen		Lipstick Jungle (N)		Your City
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)		Tous Pour Un (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY
	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Liquid Assets: The Story of Our Water			Liquid Assets	Latinos '08 (HDTV) (N)		P.O.V.
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Canada Votes: The X Challenge			National	CBC News: The National		CBC News
	-	370	16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		The Biggest Loser: Families		Lipstick Jungle
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		'Til Death	'Til Death	News (N)
	297	652	37 WPIX	90210 (HDTV)		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim
news	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502	31 CNN2	Glenn Beck		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Glenn Beck		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400	21 TSN	NHL on TSN Season Preview		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Off the Record	Boxing Yuriokis Gamboa vs. Marcos Ramirez.		
	408	418	27 net	MLB Baseball	MLB Baseball American League Division Series Game 5 -- Boston Red Sox at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.							Ult. Fighter
	410	403	30 SCORE	(5) RaceNight		Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Sports Rage
	411	457	44 OLN	Ed's Up	Adventures	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides		Don't Forget Your Passport		Ed's Up
	417	406	48 SPEED	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)
family	552	543	20 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	555	545	67 TOON	World of Quest	Johnny Test	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic (N)
	575	583	11 CMT	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	The Ultimate Coyote Ugly Search			Home Improve.	Reba
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	True Hollywood Story		Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		The Biggest Loser: Families		News (N)
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568	23 W	Shopping Bags	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	What You Eat	Supersize vs. Superskinny (N)		Gok's Fashion
	521	560	24 TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate
	603	561	25 FOOD	Iron Chef America		Dinner Imposs.	Dinner Imposs.	Restaurant Makeover		Challenge		Iron Chef Am.
	615	520	26 A&E	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Jacked: Theft	Jacked: Theft	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter
	617	522	32 SHOW	EastEnders	Saxondale	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Billable Hours	Billable Hours	Durham County		The Riches
	601	562	33 SLICE	Work Out		Real Housewives of NYC		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Work Out		Housewives
	-	633	34 ENC2	*Cry Baby*	(7:20) *Red Hot* ★★ (1993, Drama)			*Twice Upon a Yesterday* ★★ (1998)			(10:35) *100 Girls* (2000)	
	520	505	35 DISC	Monster Moves (N)		Mayday		Daily Planet		MythBusters		Cash Cab
	620	523	36 BRAVO	Wingfield	Letters	Arts & Minds	The Achievers	Law & Order		Without a Trace "Run"		*Beautiful Ppl*
	294	650	40 WPCH	(6) *Vertical Limit* (2000, Suspense)			Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	*Vertical Limit* ★★ (2000, Suspense)		
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black
	-	539	42 TCM	*Morning Glory*	*Little Women* ★★★ (1933, Drama), Joan Bennett (DVS)				*The Lost Patrol* ★★★ (1934)		(10:45) *The Gay Divorcee*	
	628	584	43 SPIKE	UFC Unleashed (N)		The Ultimate Fighter (N)		MANswers (N)	MANswers	CSI: NY (HDTV)		Trek: Voyager
	522	516	45 HIST	The Real Treasure Island		NCIS		Digging for the Truth		The Lost Gospel of Judas		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	Battlestar Galactica		Ghost Hunters International (N)		Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		Lost "Deus Ex Machina"		Deep Space 9
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) *The Hunt for Red October* ★★★ (1990, Suspense)				*Midway* ★★ (1976, Drama) Charlton Heston, Henry Fonda.				
	619	525	49 TROP	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Beverly Hills, 90210		Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	600	564	50 HGTV	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Million Dollar Listing		Holmes on Homes		Mansions	The Stagers	Property Virgin
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	526	507	92 CLT	(6) *A Change of Place*		Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		America in the Fifties		*Change-Place*
	269	350	93 APTN	News		APTN National News: Contact		Reel Insight		Canadian Geographic Bear attacks.		
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Matchmaker	Daughters-Law	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal
	571	581	100 MMM	Listed		Brooke Knows	Revival	Party of Five		Brooke Knows	Revival	Party of Five
	570	580	101 MM	PunchMuch		MTV's Top Pop Group		disBand	Technical Diff.	Punk'd	MTV's Top Pop Group	
cable variety	581	566	102 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	After	Man and Wife	Exiled	Real World-Rd

critics' corner

Little Mosque on the Prairie
Amaar! Come back, Amaar! In this new episode, the young imam (Zaib Shaikh) leaves Mercy to return to Toronto and ponder his future in the wake of J.J.'s (Stephen Lobo) proposal to Rayyan (Sitara Hewitt). Yasir (Carlo Rota) tries to persuade him to return, but this may be easier said than done. Sheila McCarthy also stars in "Lord of the Ring." 8 PM on CBRT

Lipstick Jungle
Nico (Kim Raver) has a lot on her mind as she butts heads with the new chief executive officer, Griffin Bell (James Lesure), and Kirby (Robert Buckley) complicates matters when he insists on taking their relationship public. Meanwhile, things are heating up quickly for Victory and her new contractor, Rodrigo (Lindsay Price, Carlos Ponce), but Joe (Andrew McCarthy) keeps interrupting in the new episode "Chapter 10: Let It Be." 10 PM on CKAL

Harrelson set for superhero role
Woody Harrelson is set to become the latest actor to play a superhero on the big screen. He'll portray the delusional Defendor in a new movie that starts shooting in Toronto next month. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Kidman talks motherhood

FAMILY Becoming a mother at a later age has been rewarding for Nicole Kidman, but it's also bittersweet, People.com reports.

"At 41, it's a more painful love," she tells November's Elle about the July birth of her daughter, Sunday Rose. "It's almost like my heart is stretching; I'm feeling all these muscles stretch with emotion. It's a beautiful love but there's a lot of fear and pain for her life, and for Bella's and Connor's life."

One person who helps Kidman deal with the pain is husband Keith Urban, with whom Kidman says she shares a "profound" love.

"I didn't foresee it," she says, "that you can meet someone who you have a deep and more profound love with. You move into a stage where you're able to be a more fuller person in your relationship."

But former husband Tom Cruise shouldn't take Kidman's comment as a slight. "I don't want to take away from 11 years with that man that were really important," she says. "Really, for our kids — they were amidst a lot of love. It wasn't bad."

Kidman tells Elle that she doesn't regret marrying Cruise when she was only 22 years old.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Ramsay targets Prince Charles

PEOPLE Chef Gordon Ramsay has a new target for his famous temper: Prince Charles, People.com reports.

The Hell's Kitchen star, who has notched up 12 Michelin stars and a string of successful restaurants, has condemned some of the prince's line of organic produce for being "boring" and "processed."

The Prince, 59, established Duchy Originals to market a wide range of organic foods – from oatmeal crackers to meat.

But Ramsay, 41, tells the magazine of the U.K.'s Daily Telegraph, "I am upset with him. When I looked at his Duchy food I was gobsmacked, amazed, dumbfounded at what I discovered."

Just what exactly is giving Ramsay these new Kitchen Nightmares?

"The number of sodiums, and the sugar content, is embarrassing," he said, also knocking the line's high prices. "It's boring, processed food. I don't think the Royals should be producing food like that, even if the profits do go to charity."

Duchy Originals' boss Andrew Baker fought back on Monday, saying they were "proud" of "selling top quality, delicious products made from wholesome, natural ingredients, grown in a sustainable way."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Duchovny out of rehab

ON THE MEND David Duchovny has checked out of a rehabilitation centre for sex addiction, according to his lawyer, Stanton "Larry" Stein, People.com reports.

"David is out of rehab and about to start a new movie," Stein says. "He successfully completed his treatment."

The actor, 48, voluntarily entered a facility to treat the addiction in August.

Duchovny has been married to actress Téa Leoni since 1997. They have two children, daughter Madelaine West, 9, and son Kyd, 6.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity briefs

Driver posts baby photo

PEOPLE Actress Minnie Driver has snubbed the opportunity to show off her newborn son Henry in a celebrity magazine spread. She's posted her own photograph online, imdb.com reports.

Driver, 38, gave birth to little Henry Story Driver in Los Angeles last month. Instead of selling pictures of the infant to the highest bidder, she's chosen to share them with fans and friends on her MySpace.com page free of charge.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Woody Allen once said that life doesn't imitate art, it imitates bad television. Turns out he was right.

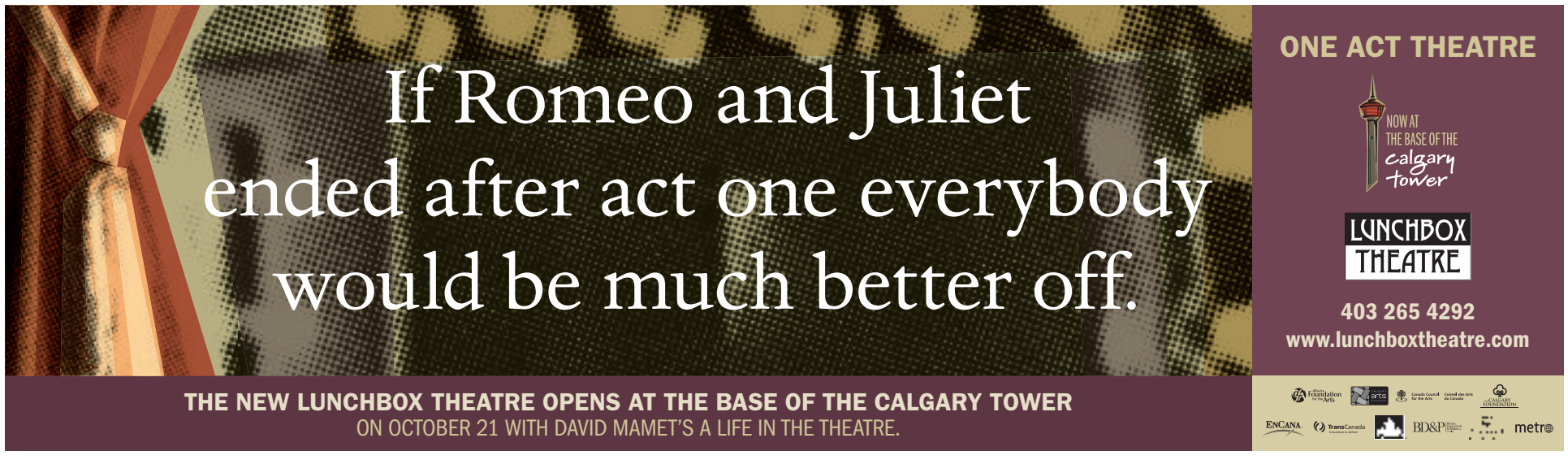
David Duchovny, who stars in Californication as a sex addict, has checked out of sex rehab. Ladies, Internet providers, knotholes, and still-warm cherry pies beware. He's now ready to start a new movie. One can hope it's not of the home-made sex tape variety.

I've heard that the second hardest thing about sex addiction is admitting that you have a problem. The third hardest thing about it must be realizing that this is what it takes these days for a husband and father of two to promote his career, because the talk-show circuit is so 20th Century. They tried to make him hype his TV show, he said "Yes, yes, yes."

The questions that dominated water coolers and Internet forums when Duchovny went in for treatment in August are now bound to be revisited. Allow me to recap. Can a predilection for a biological imperative really be considered an addiction? If sex addiction means being unable to concentrate on anything but sex all day, shouldn't most 16-year-old boys be in rehab?

The truth, much like David Duchovny's dinga-a-ling, is out there, apparently all too often.

NEWDESK@METRONEWS.CA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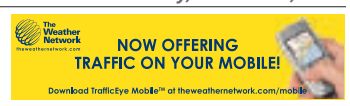
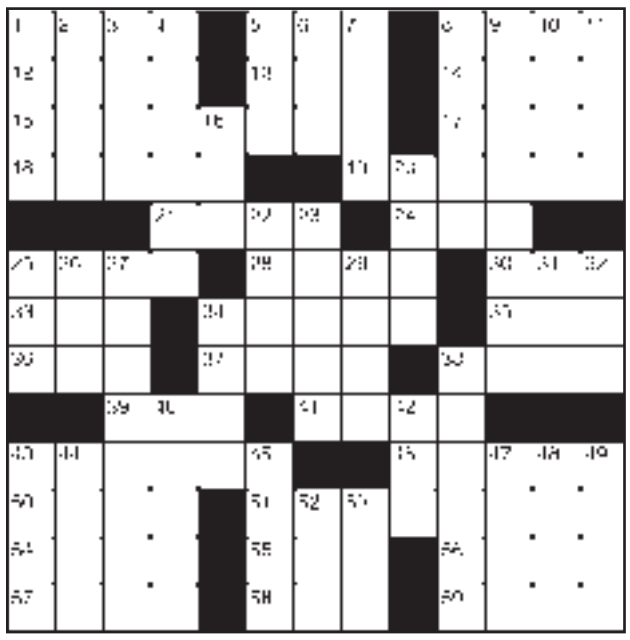
Friday: Mainly sunny 5° / -8°



Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		2		1		4	3	
9	4		2				5	
		6			7			
		9		5				
3		4				8		1
				8		9		
			1			6		
	2				8		9	3
	8	5		6		7		

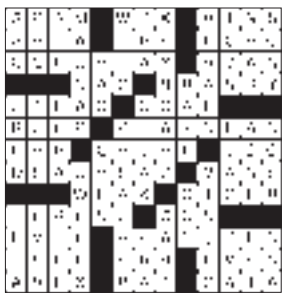
Crossword across

1 Cows' chaws
5 Scenery chewer
8 Cinematographer Nykvist
12 Sandwich cookie
13 Longoria or Mendes
14 Out of kilter
15 Music lover's buy
17 Egyptian bird
18 Bizarre
19 Solvent derived from petroleum
21 Government overthrow
24 Exploit
25 Lotion additive
28 Colorado ski mecca
30 Pair
33 Moo goo gai pan pan
34 Tubular pasta
35 Once around the track
36 And so on (Abbr.)
37 Secular
38 Crooked
39 Eventual aves
41 Burn somewhat
43 Chefs' garb
46 It becomes igneous rock
50 Parliament title
51 Swanson product
54 Drench
55 Rowing need
56 It can be raw
57 Earthenware pot
58 Thickness
59 Mop

Crossword down

1 Couturier Chanel
2 Language of Pakistan
3 Credit card result
4 Origin
5 Coop dweller
6 "Hail, Caesar!"
7 "You Bet Your Life" host
8 "Red — in the Sunset"
9 Rabbit's cousin?
10 Ms. Brockovich
11 Wall St. initials
16 Old Olds
20 Christmas
22 Eye layer
23 "War of the Worlds" aftermath
25 Idolater's emotion
26 Parcel of land
27 Gunfight site
29 Small measure
31 Pale
32 Make up your mind
34 Blueprint
38 Cattle markings
40 Stinger ingredient
42 Parisian pal
43 As well
44 Combine resources
45 Cease
47 Chew persistently
48 Transcending (Pref.)
49 Bedouin
52 Actor Kilmer
53 Parched

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	5	1	4	9	2	3	6	7
7	4	6	3	1	8	5	9	2
3	9	2	7	6	5	4	1	8
2	3	7	9	4	6	8	5	1
9	6	4	8	5	1	2	7	3
1	8	5	2	7	3	9	4	6
4	7	8	1	2	9	6	3	5
6	2	9	5	3	7	1	8	4
5	1	3	6	8	4	7	2	9

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Recipe of the day

Linguine with tomato sauce

INGREDIENTS:
1.5 lb (750 g) Italian tomatoes, seeded and chopped
2/3 cup (150 mL) chopped fresh basil
1/4 cup (50 mL) extra virgin olive oil
1/4 cup (50 mL) chopped Italian parsley
2 tbsp (25 mL) chopped fresh mint
2 tsp (10 mL) grated orange rind
3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
pepper to taste
13 oz (370 g) linguine
1/4 cup (50 mL) freshly grated Parmesan cheese to serve

METHOD:
1. Mix the tomatoes, basil, oil, parsley, mint, orange rind, garlic and pepper in a bowl. Let the mixture stand for 2 1/2 hours at room temperature.
2. Cook the pasta according to the package directions. Drain the pasta well and place in a large bowl. Top with the sauce, sprinkle with the Parmesan cheese and serve.

PER SERVING
424 calories, 12 g protein, 17 g total fat, 3 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 55 g total carbohydrate, 3 g sugars, 6 g fibre, 94 mg sodium

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
An emotional burden needs closure. Keep your feet planted on the ground. Friends are waiting for promises to be kept.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Someone can't get you out of his mind. No one can concentrate because confusion reigns. Focus on taking care of some details immediately.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A woman's sense of right and wrong is offensive. A man feels forced to take on the world. You're able to fulfill plans, and bring things to conclusion.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Somebody's hostility will make you self-conscious. There's no need to feel sorry for yourself. You must reply to a message from a selfish person.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Strengthen your emotional connection with your family. You can thwart criticism by taking action. Declarations of love will be well received.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A disclosure causes dizzy anticipation. Simple pleasures will become complicated. You can create a dramatic event.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A man faces a tedious ordeal. Someone wants to take a break. Others are living in denial. You can accomplish more by concentrating.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Blessings will come in odd little packages. Scolding will cause misery. You'll help to stabilize a situation.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Deception can cause suffering. A con artist wants to tell someone to get lost. Someone's sad lot in life doesn't interest you.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Frustration results from interference. Someone tells you something you don't want to know. A frightened person discourages a grumbler.

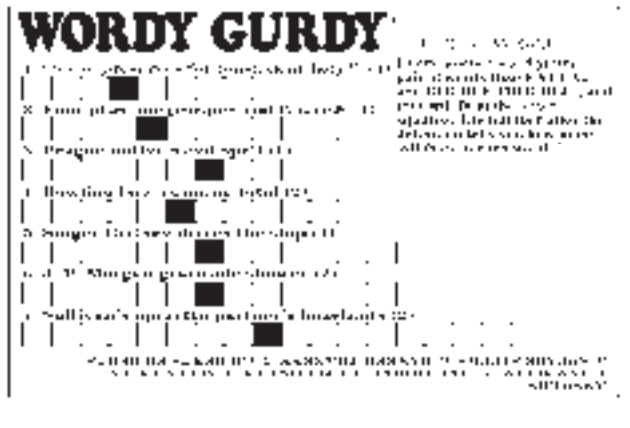
AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Others will go along with your plans without a fuss. You are calm about facing a difficulty alone. Someone begs your permission to do something.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A delightful person complicates a wonderful situation. Nobody knows how mischievous you've been. Don't be too friendly with an emotional vampire.

This day in history

OCT. 8, 1582: Because of the implementation of the Gregorian calendar this day does not exist in this year in Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain.
OCT. 8, 1871: Four major fires break out on the shores of Lake Michigan in Chicago, Peshtigo, Wisconsin, Holland, Michigan, and Manistee, Michigan.
OCT. 8, 1932: The Indian Air Force is established.
OCT. 8, 1967: Guerrilla leader Che Guevara and his men are captured in Bolivia.
OCT. 8, 1991: The Croatian Parliament cuts all remaining ties with Yugoslavia.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



TRÉ ARMSTRONG
JUDGE

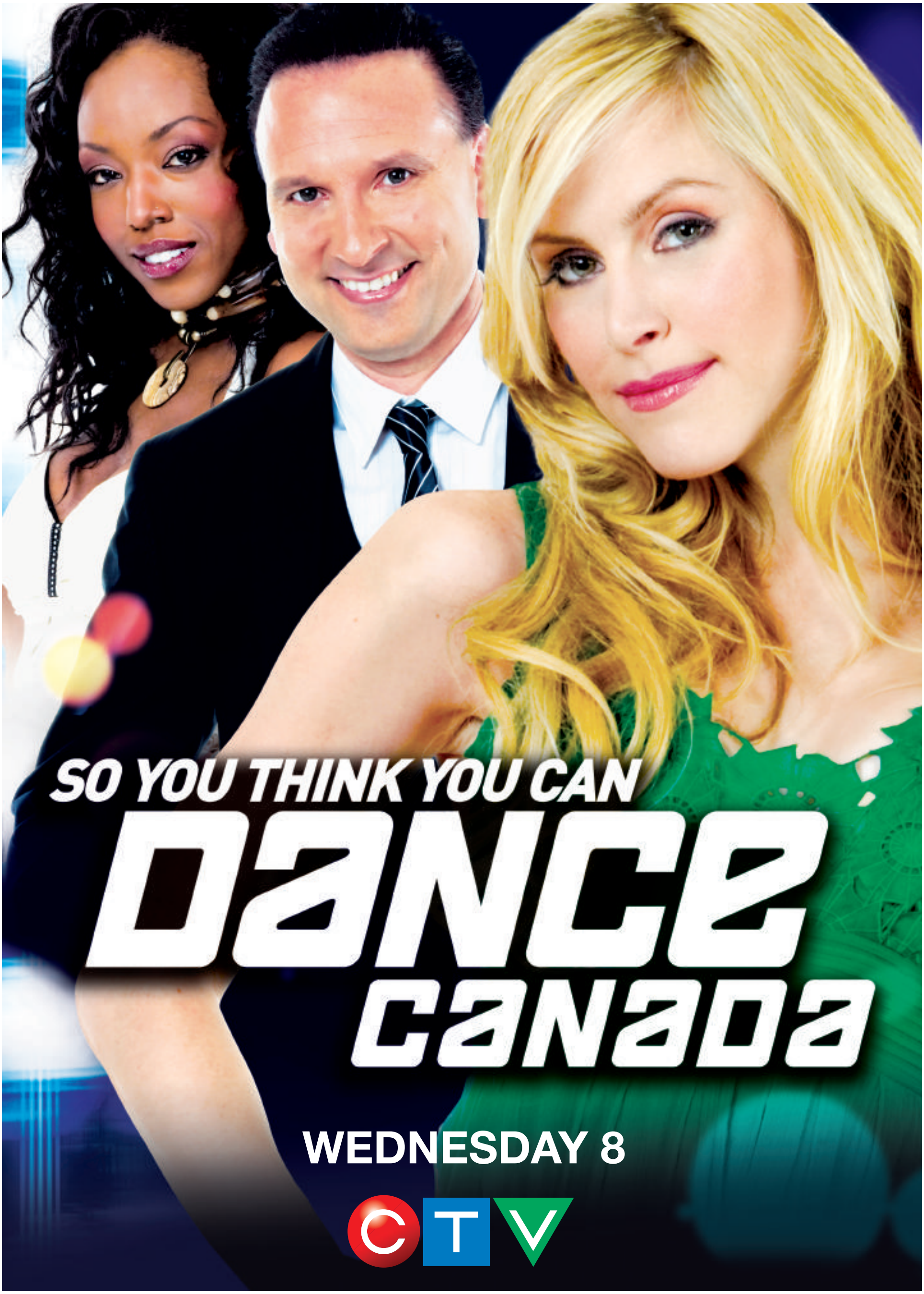
Armstrong's technical training and flare for urban street dance shaped her into a multi-talented dancer, actress and choreographer. She has appeared on *Top O the Pops, Canadian Idol, BET's 106 & Park and The MTV Video Music Awards.* Celebrities Armstrong has worked with include: Rhianna, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Kreesha Turner, Jay-Z, Hillary Duff and Missy Elliot. Armstrong's feature role in *Breakin' In: The Making of a Hip Hop Dancer* lead to her acting debut as Candy in *Save the Last Dance 2*. She also plays Michelle, lead actress in the MTV/Paramount dance feature, and Sundance Film Festival hit, *How She Move.*

JEAN MARC GENEREUX
JUDGE

Quebec's Jean Marc Genereux began dancing at age 10 with his partner, and now wife, France Mousseau. In the early 1980's they began dancing the International style of ballroom. Together, as National Champions, they have won multiple dance competitions and events - performing as dance artists all over the world from Asia and Australia to Europe and America. Genereux and Mousseau retired from the competitive scene in 1998, however, the two still travel all over the world to perform, as well as judge and choreograph for elite competitors. Genereux performed in the films *Dance With Me* and *Shall We Dance*, with Jennifer Lopez and Richard Gere. In 2006, Genereux joined the cast of the American version of *So You Think You Can Dance* as a choreographer.

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE CANADA

CTV


SO YOU THINK YOU CAN
DANCE
CANADA
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